

Panel Sees Thai Pact, Fulbright Not Surprised

By the Associated Press

The Senate Foreign Relations Committee finally has seen the secret U.S.-Thailand contingency agreement.

Chairman J. W. Fulbright, D-Mo., said after seeing it yesterday that it was about what committee members had expected.

"There are no great surprises," he told reporters. But he said "the precise language is interesting."

Asked why Secretary of Defense Melvin R. Laird had finally consented to send a copy to the Capitol after rejecting committee requests for several months, Fulbright said Laird "judged quite correctly there was no point in continuing this attitude.

"This resolves it," he said, although the question of whether

the contingency agreement represents a U.S. commitment to send troops to the support of Thailand "is a matter of interpretation, just like the Spanish bases."

"The Thais say there is no commitment but I'm quite sure that before the publicity they thought there was," he said.

Laird has said the Nixon administration is not bound by any such commitments made during the administration of President Lyndon B. Johnson.

The document was returned to the Pentagon.

A Foreign Relations subcommittee, chaired by Sen. W. Stuart Symington, D-Mo., continues behind closed doors Monday its country-by-country review of U.S. commitments abroad. U.S. personnel facilities and programs in Thailand will come under discussion Monday.